10/23/87 588 95

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 24 NO. 10 OCT. 1987

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Jul '87	Aug '87
Labor Force	247,243	247,599
Employment	230,010	231,409
Unemployment	17,233	16,190
Rate (Raw)	7.0	6.5
Rate (S.A.)	7.5	7.8
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.35	$14.08
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.8	42.6
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	6.0	6.0
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.33	$12.42
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.3	43.2
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	340.8	342.7
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.9	+4.3

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

— Good News for Wyoming's Lumber Industry
— Banking Performance in Wyoming
— Wyoming Bankruptcies Climb

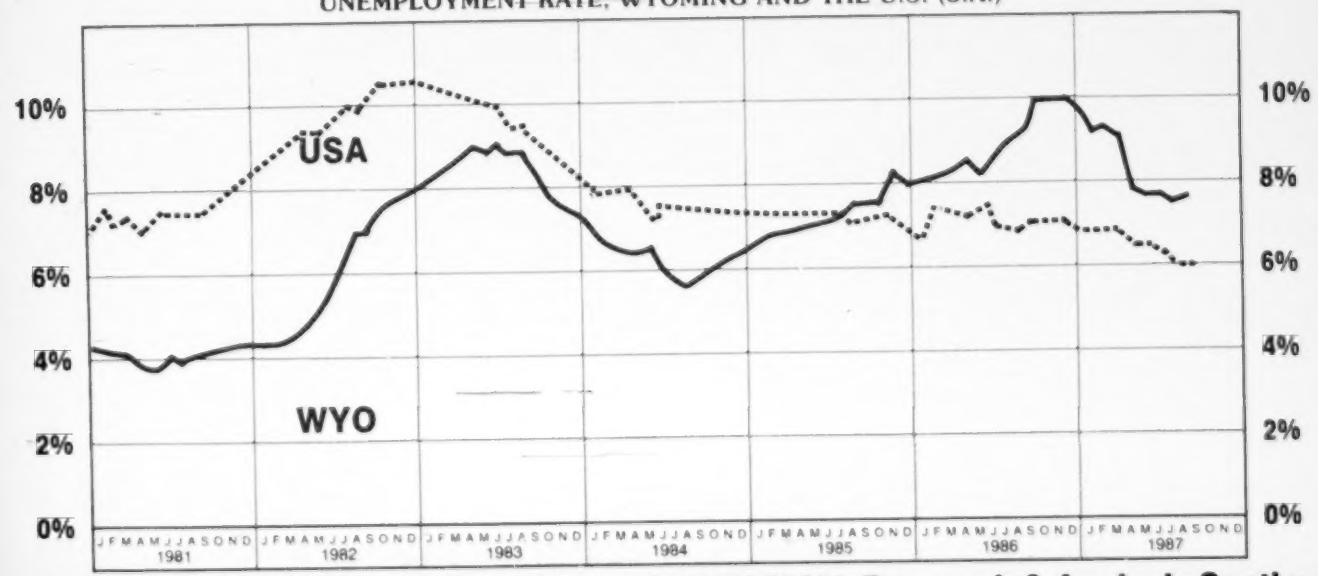
NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES AT 6.0 PERCENT

Nationally, improved economic conditions continued during the third quarter of 1987 as the seasonally adjusted civilian unemployment rate remained at 6.0 percent in August, the same as July, and down from the 6.8 percent of last year. The July and August rate was the lowest since December of 1979. The number of unemployed in August, over 7.2 million, was down 836,000 over-the-year. This was the lowest number of jobseekers since March of 1980.

The average duration of unemployment in August was 14.3 weeks, down considerably from 15.6 weeks a year ago.

Year-to-year comparisons of employment indicated that the number of workers was at a record high 113.1 million, an annual gain of 3.0 million, a 2.7 percent increase.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Almost half of this annual gain, 1.4 million, occurred among adult women. Adult white women had the lowest unemployment in August, 4.4 percent, followed by adult white men at 4.5 percent. Black male teenagers posted the highest unemployment at 32.6 percent.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT AT TWO YEAR LOW

In August, Wyoming's unemployment rate continued to drop for the sixth consecutive month, down to 6.5 percent seasonally unadjusted, the lowest rate recorded since the fall of 1985. The August rate compares to the July rate of 7.0 percent and the year ago rate of 7.6 percent.

Seasonally adjusted, statewide August unemployment stood at 7.8 percent, up a bit from the July rate of 7.5 percent, and down over one percent from the 9.1 percent of a year ago.

Wyoming's civilian labor force in August remained about the same as in July and continued to decline by almost 7,500, or 2.9 percent, from August, 1986. The number of workers, total employment, in August statewide was up by about 1,400 over-the-month indicating a seasonal increase in hiring. Monthly employment gains were posted in manufacturing, primarily lumber & wood products, and mining in the oil & gas service sector. Over-the-year, however, only manufacturing indicated an employment gain in lumber & wood products. All other major industries indicated employment declines with the exception of mining and services which remained at year ago levels.

AREA TRENDS

Around Wyoming in August, eighteen counties indicated annual declines in their labor force. Campbell County suffered the greatest annual labor force loss, 12.9 percent, while Teton County continued with the highest growth rate, 5.3 percent.

Natrona County had the largest number of jobseekers, almost 2,700, and an unemployment rate of 8.3 percent, down sharply from the 10.8 percent of last year. Laramie County followed with a jobless number of almost 1,900 but unemployment, at 5.3 percent, continued below the statewide level.

The lowest unemployment in the state was enjoyed by Teton and Albany counties with rates of 2.0 and 3.5 percent. August is the peak of the tourist season for the Jackson, Wyoming area while Albany County, on the other hand, has an economy buffered by the large numbers of governmental employees, almost 40 percent of the employed labor force.

OTHER STATES

Wyoming's unemployment rate ranked twelfth highest in the nation, along with Tennessee and Washington, in July, 1987. In the states contiguous to Wyoming only Idaho and Colorado had higher unemployment. Louisiana again had the highest unemployment at 10.7 percent and New Hampshire and Massachusetts were the lowest at 2.6 percent.

GOOD NEWS FOR WYOMING'S LUMBER INDUSTRY

According to information presented in the Western Wood Products Association's *1986 Statistical Yearbook of the Western Lumber Industry*, Wyoming saw a substantial increase in lumber production for 1986. The state's lumber production totalled 239 million board feet (MBF) in 1986, up from the 182 MBF recorded in 1985. The state saw its' lowest production in recent years in 1982, a sparse 135 MBF.

The estimated wholesale value of the lumber produced in Wyoming in 1986 was $59.4 million a 32.9 percent increase over 1985. For 1982 the estimated value of lumber produced was $29.5 million.

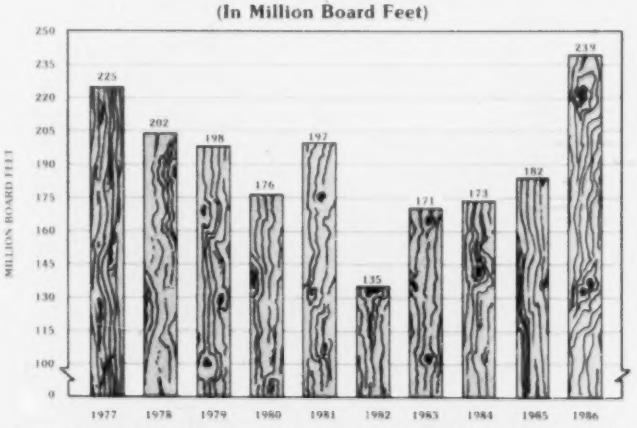
During 1986 the Wyoming forest products industry saw employment increasing, adding 95 new jobs. Logging camps and contractors added 39 new workers, while sawmills and planing mills added 97. The remaining "all other" group lost 41 workers.

Most of Wyoming's lumber is sold to markets in the Midwest or to parts of the south central United States. Lodgepole pine accounts for the lion's share of the lumber cut, 60.5 percent, while ponderosa pine accounts for another 26.7 percent.

Albany, Converse, Crook, Platte, and Weston counties as a group, saw their lumber production decline from 76 MBF in 1985 to 67 MBF in 1986. The Carbon, Hot Springs, Johnson, Park, and Sheridan County group saw an increase in their lumber production from 37 MBF to 89 MBF. The group of Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette, and Uinta counties also saw an increase from 69 MBF to 83 MBF.

The accompanying graph shows the annual production of lumber in Wyoming from 1977 through 1986.

WYOMING LUMBER PRODUCTION
1977-1986
(In Million Board Feet)



Source: Western Wood Products Association, *1986 Statistical Yearbook of the Western Lumber Industry*

Prepared by: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis Section, September, 1987.

BANKING PERFORMANCE IN WYOMING

A recent article in the *Economic Review* from the Federal Reserve Board in Kansas City, discussed what is happening to

banks in the Tenth District. The District includes Wyoming, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and New Mexico. According to the article, "Banking Performance in Tenth District States," banking in the Cowboy state continued to be hurt in 1986 by the severe recession in energy and mining.

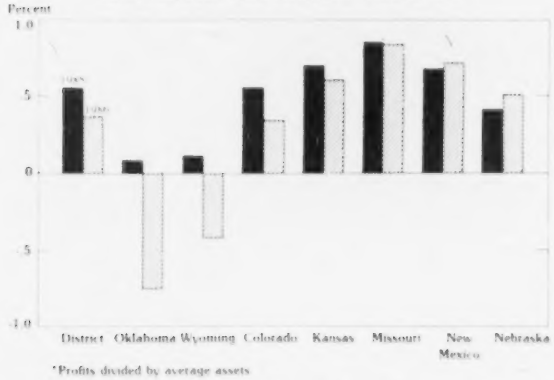
At the end of 1986, 9.5 percent of the loans at Wyoming banks were non-performing. This delinquency rate was the highest in the district, reflecting slower than average repayment of real estate loans and commercial and industrial loans.

Wyoming banks had the second largest decline in return on assets (ROA - profits divided by average assets) in 1986. During the year, seven of the state's 110 banks failed, and no new banks were started.

Most Wyoming banks saw both assets and the number of new loans declining. No banks in Wyoming fell in the large size group in 1986. Medium-size banks suffered somewhat larger decline in profitability than small banks, further widening the gap between the two size groups. As a result the average ROA for the state was -0.4 percent in 1986, well below the district average of 0.37 percent.

For the fourth year in a row, 1986 represents a decline in the profitability of Wyoming banks. Continuing low prices for oil will obviously hurt many banks in Wyoming, both by increasing their direct losses on energy loans and by depressing local economies.

RETURN ON ASSETS AT BANKS IN TENTH DISTRICT STATES*



*Profits divided by average assets

Reprinted from: Economic Review, Federal Reserve Board of Kansas City, July/August, 1987.

WYOMING BANKRUPTCIES CLIMB

Bankruptcies in Wyoming continued to climb during 1986 as more individuals, couples, and businesses sought protection. In 1986, a total of 1,481 bankruptcies were filed, an increase of 341 over 1985. Estimates based on the first eight months of 1987 show Wyoming's bankruptcies climbing to 1,587 by year's end.

As would be expected, the counties hardest hit include areas of the state where mining is the dominant industry. Natrona County had the greatest number of bankruptcies with 274. Carbon County had the highest bankruptcy rate with 47.9 bankruptcies per 10,000 population.

Other counties besieged with increasing bankruptcies include: Converse, with 60 bankruptcies and a rate of 43.2; and Campbell, with 157 bankruptcies and a rate of 42.8. Even Laramie County, whose rate in the past has been lower than the statewide average, saw bankruptcies increasing to 239 and a rate of 31.8. The statewide rate was 31.4.

WYOMING COUNTIES BY NUMBER OF BANKRUPTCIES ALSO MONTHLY BANKRUPTCY AVERAGE AND BANKRUPTCY RATE SEPTEMBER 1986 to AUGUST 1987

	TOTAL FOR YEAR	PERCENT OF TOTAL	MONTHLY AVERAGE	RATE PER 10,000 POPULATION (1986 CENSUS) (ESTIMATE)
STATEWIDE	1,592	100.0	133	31.4
NATRONA	274	17.2	23	38.6
LARAMIE	239	15.0	20	31.8
CAMPBELL	157	9.9	13	42.8
SWEETWATER	111	7.0	9	23.6
CARBON	93	5.8	8	47.9
FREMONT	90	5.6	8	25.5
ALBANY	77	4.8	6	26.2
PARK	77	4.8	6	30.9
UINTA	61	3.8	5	28.6
CONVERSE	60	3.8	5	43.2
SHERIDAN	54	3.4	5	20.8
LINCOLN	42	2.6	4	26.9
GOSHEN	32	2.0	3	25.4
WASHAKIE	28	1.8	2	28.0
BIG HORN	27	1.7	2	22.0
PLATTE	24	1.5	2	24.2
WESTON	21	1.3	2	26.6
JOHNSON	20	1.3	2	29.0
TETON	20	1.3	2	18.5
HOT SPRINGS	18	1.1	2	29.5
CROOK	17	1.1	1	28.3
SUBLETTE	8	0.5	1	12.7
NIOBRARA	6	0.4	**	19.4
OUT OF STATE	36	23	3	N.A.

** Less than 1

Prepared by: WESC, Research and Analysis with information provided by the U.S. Census and the Collection Center, and affiliation of the Credit Bureau & Transunion Credit Information Center.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
August 1987	342.7	325.4	374.9	283.9	214.7	320.2	466.1
Annual % Change	4.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.7	6.3	6.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	AUG 1987[1]	JUL 1987[1]	AUG 1986[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	247,599	247,243	255,094	0.1	- 2.9
Unemployment	16,190	17,233	19,485	- 6.1	- 16.9
Employed Labor Force	231,409	230,010	235,609	0.6	- 1.8
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	178,400	180,000	183,092	- 0.9	- 2.6
b. Agriculture[3]	12,459	12,585	12,693	- 1.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	6.5% 7.8%*	7.0% 7.5%*	7.6% 9.1%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.8% 6.0%*	6.1% 6.0%*	6.7% 6.8%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	1.9%	2.4%	3.5%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 599.81	$ 599.83	$ 614.55	- 0.0	- 2.4
Average Weekly Hours	42.6	41.8	42.5	1.9	0.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.08	$ 14.35	$ 14.46	- 1.9	- 2.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	17,348	20,017	30,153	- 13.3	- 42.5
a. Initial	1,842	2,483	3,406	- 25.8	- 45.9
Weeks Compensated	13,686	18,913	29,029	- 27.6	- 52.9
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 2,127,937	$ 2,986,411	$ 4,827,411	- 28.7	- 55.9
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 155.21	$ 157.52	$ 165.86	- 1.5	- 6.4
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	6/87 4,675	6/86 5,859	XXX	- 20.2
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	6/87 4,178	6/86 4,135	XXX	1.0
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	6/87 3,759	6/86 3,914	XXX	- 4.0
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 536.54	$ 521.56	$ 529.17	2.9	1.4
Average Weekly Hours	43.2	42.3	42.3	2.1	2.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.42	$ 12.33	$ 12.51	0.7	- 0.7
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	342.7	340.8	328.6	0.6	4.3
Producer Prices, All Commodities	310.5	310.2	297.2	0.1	4.5
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	325.4	325.1	314.6	0.1	3.4

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	AUG 1987	JUL 1987	AUG 1986	%CHANGE JUL-AUG	%CHANGE AUG-AUG	AUG 1987	JUL 1987	AUG 1986	AUG 1987	JUL 1987	AUG 1986
Statewide	247,599	247,243	255,094	0.1	- 2.9	16,190	17,233	19,485	6.5	7.0	7.6
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									7.8	7.5	9.1
Albany	14,463	14,424	14,743	0.3	- 1.9	501	595	614	3.5	4.1	4.2
Big Horn	4,446	4,472	4,864	- 0.6	- 8.6	388	433	598	8.7	9.7	12.3
Campbell	14,651	14,578	16,816	0.5	- 12.9	1,108	1,294	1,657	7.6	8.9	9.9
Carbon	8,809	8,814	9,029	- 0.1	- 2.4	590	633	698	6.7	7.2	7.7
Converse	5,740	5,675	6,227	1.1	- 7.8	443	422	595	7.7	7.4	9.6
Crook	3,178	3,154	3,134	0.8	1.4	159	177	159	5.0	5.6	5.1
Fremont	15,910	15,712	16,142	1.3	- 1.4	1,315	1,353	1,541	8.3	8.6	9.5
Goshen	6,307	6,260	6,194	0.8	1.8	399	379	341	6.3	6.1	5.5
Hot Springs	3,106	3,006	3,167	3.3	- 1.9	243	226	243	7.8	7.5	7.7
Johnson	3,851	3,778	3,703	1.9	4.0	221	209	267	5.7	5.5	7.2
Laramie	35,168	35,133	36,290	0.1	- 3.1	1,858	1,927	1,822	5.3	5.5	5.0
Lincoln	8,138	8,326	8,620	- 2.3	- 5.6	634	636	670	7.8	7.6	7.8
Natrona	32,256	32,253	33,551	0.0	- 3.9	2,680	2,849	3,629	8.3	8.8	10.8
Niobrara	1,599	1,486	1,617	7.6	- 1.1	97	84	103	6.1	5.7	6.4
Park	14,996	14,930	15,368	0.4	- 2.4	754	804	1,104	5.0	5.4	7.2
Platte	4,121	4,162	4,152	- 1.0	- 0.7	293	308	268	7.1	7.4	6.5
Sheridan	12,469	12,456	12,658	0.1	- 1.5	719	818	718	5.8	6.6	5.7
Sublette	3,738	3,739	4,189	0.0	- 10.8	242	252	228	6.5	6.7	5.4
Sweetwater	22,350	22,544	22,066	- 0.9	1.3	1,746	1,813	1,917	7.8	8.0	8.7
Teton	13,498	13,368	12,814	1.0	5.3	269	346	285	2.0	2.6	2.2
Uinta	10,998	11,025	11,516	- 0.2	- 4.5	989	1,053	1,314	9.0	9.6	11.4
Washakie	4,450	4,571	4,853	- 2.6	- 8.3	353	385	421	7.9	8.4	8.7
Weston	3,358	3,378	3,384	- 0.6	- 0.8	190	238	292	5.7	7.0	8.6
United States									5.8	6.1	6.7
United States - Seasonally adjusted									6.0	6.0	6.8

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 *(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	AUG 1987[2]	JUL 1987[3]	AUG 1986	JUL 1987	AUG 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to AUG 1987	to AUG 1987
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	196.9	196.7	202.3	0.1	- 2.7
Manufacturing	8.4	8.1	8.1	3.7	3.7
Durable Goods	4.2	4.0	3.9	5.0	7.7
Nondurable Goods	4.2	4.1	4.2	2.4	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	188.5	188.6	194.2	- 0.1	- 2.9
Mining	18.8	18.4	18.8	2.2	0.0
Contract Construction	15.8	15.8	18.1	0.0	- 12.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.0	14.0	14.3	0.0	- 2.1
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.0	- 4.8
Transportation except Railroads	5.8	5.8	5.7	0.0	1.8
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.2	6.2	6.5	0.0	- 4.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	46.0	46.0	47.5	0.0	- 3.2
Wholesale Trade	8.0	8.0	8.5	0.0	- 5.9
Retail Trade	38.0	38.0	39.0	0.0	- 2.6
Food Stores	5.5	5.5	5.6	0.0	- 1.8
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.6	5.7	6.1	- 1.8	- 8.2
Eating & Drinking Places	14.8	14.9	15.0	- 0.7	- 1.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	7.9	8.2	0.0	- 3.7
Services	36.8	36.8	36.8	0.0	0.0
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Medical & Other Health Services	7.5	7.4	6.6	1.3	13.6
Government	49.2	49.7	50.5	- 1.0	- 2.6
Federal Government	8.2	8.3	8.1	- 1.2	1.2
State & Local Government	41.0	41.4	42.4	- 1.0	- 3.3
State Government	13.1	13.1	13.3	0.0	- 1.5
Local Government	27.9	28.3	29.1	- 1.4	- 4.1

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	AUG 1987[2]	JUL 1987[3]	AUG 1986	JUL 1987	AUG 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to AUG 1987	to AUG 1987
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.3	28.4	28.6	- 0.3	- 1.0
Manufacturing	1.4	1.3	1.3	7.7	7.7
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	26.9	27.1	27.3	- 0.7	- 1.5
Mining	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.9	3.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.5	2.4	2.4	4.2	4.2
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.9	2.0	2.0	- 5.0	- 5.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.3	8.3	8.6	0.0	- 3.5
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	- 7.1
Retail Trade	5.7	5.7	5.8	0.0	- 1.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.0	- 6.2
Services	5.8	5.8	5.0	0.0	16.0
Government	4.9	5.1	5.7	- 3.9	- 14.0
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	4.2	4.4	5.0	4.5	- 16.0
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.4	30.4	31.4	0.0	- 3.2
Manufacturing	1.0	1.1	1.1	- 9.1	- 9.1
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.4	29.3	30.3	0.3	- 3.0
Contract Construction	2.2	2.2	2.5	0.0	- 12.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.6	2.5	2.6	4.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.7	7.6	7.7	1.3	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.8	6.7	6.8	1.5	1.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	- 5.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.4	5.4	5.7	0.0	- 5.3
Government	9.6	9.7	9.8	- 1.0	- 2.0
Federal Government	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	3.7
State & Local Government	6.8	6.9	7.1	- 1.4	- 4.2

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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WYOMING
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

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